VCCTL Newsletter

Volume 2, No. 1, Summer 2003

NEW VCCTL USER INTERFACE

Users may have noticed recently that the VCCTL user interface has been completely overhauled. The interface is still web-based, but the look and feel is completely different. The former main menu list has been broken down into functional submenus for greater ease of navigation through the various tasks. The submenus are accessible from the new main menu, which is the point of entry into the system:

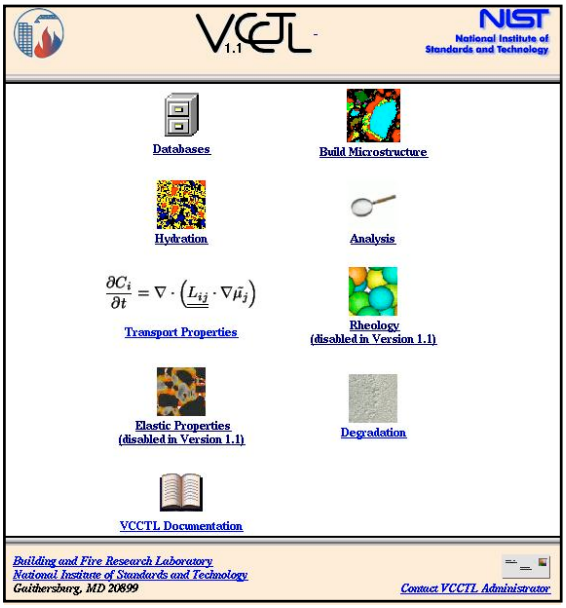

***Figure 1**. Main menu for the new VCCTL user interface.*

Another feature that has changed is the color scheme for identifying phases in VCCTL microstructures, which now more closely mimics the colors that would be observed when optically viewing an HF-etched cement microstructure with reflected light.

More importantly, the new interface has new features that should make data entry more convenient and less prone to user errors:

- Particle size mass fractions, clinker volume fractions, and clinker surface area fractions are read automatically for any cement in the cement database, although these values can still be modified in the forms.
- The VCCTL software keeps a history of the actions that have been used to generate a given microstructure, and this information carries through to anticipate desired values in subsequent forms.
- Online documentation and contextual help are available for each form.

As with a new release of any extensive software package, some bugs may be expected. Several minor problems have been reported and fixed in recent weeks. We rely on user feedback to detect problems with the software, so please report any bugs or other problems to Jeff Bullard (*bullard@nist.gov*) and we will address them.

We hope you will find the new version of VCCTL enjoyable and easy to use. Comments and suggestions are welcome and may be addressed to Jeff Bullard (*bullard@nist.gov*).

2003 CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- Association Technique de l-Industrie des Liants Hydrauliques (ATILH)
- Cemex
- Dyckerhoff AG
- Holcim (US) Inc.
- Int'l. Center for Aggregate Research
- Portland Cement Association
- Sika AG
- Verein Deutscher Zementwerke e. V.
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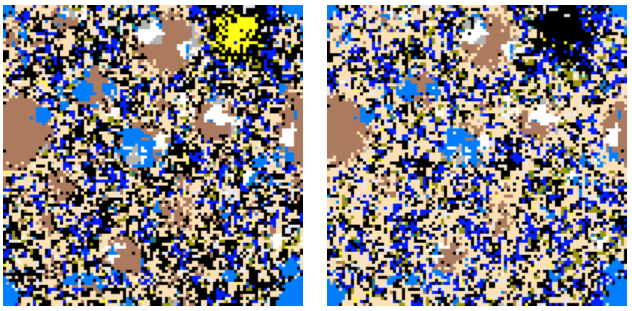
VCCTL IMAGE GALLERY



25 °C **50 °C**

Hydration of a w/c=0.4 cement paste for 24 h under "saturated" curing conditions at 25 °C or 50 °C. Light brown is C-S-H gel, yellow is gypsum, and other colors are unhydrated cement and other hydration products.

VCCTL WEB SITES

http://ciks.cbt.nist.gov/vcctl/
http://bfrl.nist.gov/862/vcctl/

VCCTL Newsletter:

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